



# The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114



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# The Blurb



NOVEMBER 1998



The MS 150  
The Biggest and the Best

AMATEUR RADIO: WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FAIL!

Public Service Since 1949



VOLUME 48  
NUMBER 10

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

**Amateur Radio License Examinations** are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM-*SHARP!*

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.phil-mont.org>

**E-mail:** [info@phil-mont.org](mailto:info@phil-mont.org)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

**Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:**

*Southampton* 131.8 Hz—*Center City* 103.5 Hz—*Lansdale* 114.8 Hz—*Broomall* 85.4 Hz

**70-cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3AA** - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I; Manager: W3STW

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

**W3AA packet BBS frequency:** 144.99 MHz: [w3aa@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3aa@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**W3AA e-mail:** [w3aa@phil-mont.org](mailto:w3aa@phil-mont.org)

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** W3CH, Russ Stafford, Box 379, Eagleville, PA 19408-0379; 610-631-3401 x902  
[russ@hdj.com](mailto:russ@hdj.com)—[w3ch@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3ch@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** AA3EP, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Road, Pottstown, PA 19464; 610-323-1050  
[aa3ep@aol.com](mailto:aa3ep@aol.com)—[aa3ep@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:aa3ep@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**SECRETARY:** N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038; 215-884-5518  
[n3pvo@aol.com](mailto:n3pvo@aol.com)

**TREASURER:** K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025; 215-542-5991  
[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com) packet: [k2bn@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:k2bn@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); W3GQD (99); KB3IV (99); N3XKE (99); W3STW (A)

## COMMITTEES

**Archives:** W3IIN; **Audit:** KE3OP; **Awards:** AA3EP; **Blurb folding:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH; **Budget:** K3KUD; **Directory:** WB3KOJ & W3IIM; **DX:** NU3Y; **Education:** W3CH; **Emerg.Coar:** N3XKE; **Field Day:** WU3I; **Membership:** W3LEN; **Net Control:** KB3IV; **Publicity:** W3RM **Program:** AA3EP; **Public Service:** AA3EP; **Publicity:** N3IEI; **Refreshments:** W3AOK; **Repeater:** W3BBB; **Skywarn:** N3LCV; **Special Events:** N3WCO; **Sunshine:** WU3I; **Youth:** KE3ZY; **TVI:** W3VVS; **VE Program:** ND3Q; **W3AA:** KB3IV; **Welcome:** K3CJ.

## NET SCHEDULE

|         |       |        |        |                              |
|---------|-------|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| Sunday  | 09:30 | 147.03 | MHzFM  | "Sunday Morning 2 Meter Net" |
|         | 10:00 | 28.393 | MHzSSB | "10-on-10 Net"               |
|         | 10:20 | 3.993  | MHzSSB | 75 Meter Net                 |
| Tuesday | 20:00 | 147.03 | MHzFM  | CW Practice Net              |

## November Birthdays

- 01 Pauline Green (XYL K3HES)  
04 Arlene Spare (XYL N3TAL)  
Charlie Weigand - AA3EP  
05 Delores Malone (XYL N3MGS)  
Al Tribble - W3STW  
09 Walter Rice Jr - N3RCR  
Gladys Schlichting - (XYL N3EMN)  
12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX  
Mike VanMeter - KE7YE  
13 Chuck Snyder - W2HSA  
14 Chris McCormick - N3JHR\*  
18 "Gil" Gilpin - W3SRU  
Jules Miller - W3SV  
Bill Share - N3XTM\*  
19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH  
20 Bob Gargano - N3YGY  
21 Guy Knickerbocker - W3RJA  
22 Bill Popovic - W3AOK  
24 Roxanne Pearlstein - N3KQH  
Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)  
Gina Policarpo - N3QKZ  
25 Dusty Rhoads - ND3Q  
27 Mel Toren - N2MT  
29 Bob Namm - K2RRR  
Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL  
Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

\*Indicate New Member 1997-98

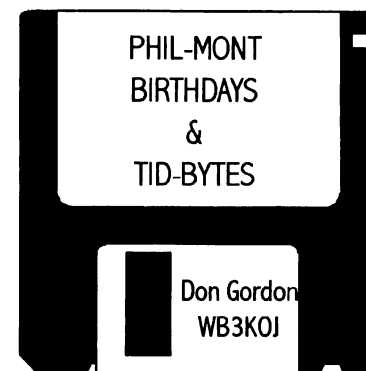
OMISSIONS, ADDITIONS & CHANGES TO FALL DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT  
KE3QB: HOME PHONE - 215-289-7524

W3CH & N3WCO: ZIP CODE - 19408-0379 N3KGG - DAVE WITKOWSKI-  
REUPPED (610-853-4113) W3UI: ZIP CODE 19010

HELP PHIL-MONT: Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN, for details.

MEMBERSHIP STATS At press time P.M.R.C. has: 172 FULL PAID MEMBERS  
18 FAMILY MEMBERS 9 YOUTH MEMBERS 3 HONORARY MEMBERS 3  
PENDING MEMBERS

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy !



## MEMBERSHIP STATS.

172 FULL  
18 FAMILY  
9 YOUTH (under 17 yrs)  
3 HONORARY  
3 PENDING  
205

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the net.*

- VE testing will be held on November 5 at 6:30 P.M. The 1998 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.35, but there is no charge for the Novice test.
- On November 4 the Director's meeting will be held in N.E. Philadelphia at the home of NU3Y & N3KQH.
- The General Meeting will be held on November 11th. The program will be about Microwaves. Nominations of Officers and Directors will take place. It is also **Bring a Friend Night**.

.....

### ARRL Board of Directors holds special meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors will meet in a special session on October 24 in St. Louis. The agenda contains a single item: to consider the League's response to the FCC's August "rules streamlining" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143.

Among other things, the FCC has proposed elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus tickets and a reduction from six to four license classes. The FCC also invited comments on a number of other issues, including Morse code testing requirements.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board issued its own license restructuring proposals that also call for an end to the Novice and Tech Plus tickets and four license classes. Additionally, the plan would offer substantial HF privileges with a 5 WPM Morse code test, require a 12 WPM code test for Advanced privileges, and eliminate the 20 WPM code test for Amateur Extra privileges. The League plan also called for beefing up the Extra class written exam and "refarming" the existing Novice bands—primarily as additional phone segments. The ARRL informed the FCC of its restructuring ideas by letter but did not file a formal petition for rulemaking.

Comments on the FCC's NPRM are due December 1. Reply comments are due January 15. □

The ARRL is more than just  
a magazine  
subscription!

## The PREZ SEZ



Hello, all you Phil-Monsters, It's almost time for our party to retire as officers or decide if we want to run for yet one more year. I have not made up my mind whether to run or pass along the gavel to someone with new ideas. Do you know a real go-getter within the club? I think the Party of Goals has done much of what we set out to do. Some things are taking longer than we had hoped, but will be completed. I do know one thing for certain, Carol, N3PVO will not be running for Secretary this year. My hat is off to her. This is a very hard job and she made it look easy! She should, of course, be thanked by each and every club member! I know if she decides to run for another club office she will surely have my support and should have your's as well. She will do an outstanding job at any task that she may take on for the club. If you would like to run for club office you should let it be known. We will be looking for a club Secretary to fill Carol's shoes. Remember it's your club and it will need leadership. So step forward to lend a hand!

I have a report from our new W3AA station manager Al, W3STW. Staffing W3AA has been improving with the help of Hams both inside and outside of Phil-Mont. The new hours, for the most part, are working. The new SSTV printer is getting lots of use and is a big hit with the younger guests at the station. If you would like to come down and lend a hand please contact Steve (WU3I), Al (W3STW) or myself and we can steer you in the right direction to be a volunteer at W3AA.

I want to also thank Charlie, AA3EP for the many programs that he has arranged this year. The last one on APRS was one of the best that I have seen in many months. Of course, time would not permit our guest speaker to go over everything the system could do, but boy, what he did show was great.

Also, while we are talking about Charlie, AA3EP, I would like to thank him for all that the Phil-Mont members, under his direction, have done to help out with public service in our club. If you missed out on things this year, ask Charlie what's coming up with public service next year. We still have one more event this year. That will be Brian's Run which is held in West Chester, PA in December. It's small and we only need about 12-14 hams and it's all over in about an hour or so. It's a great opportunity to learn and get your feet wet on an event.

Wonderful things are coming up within the club. Of course, the November meeting will be on Microwave and we will have nominations for officers. December will be the Elections and the big fund-raiser for the year will be the Phil-Mont Auction in January 1999. The November meeting will also be Bring A Friend Night. So bring a friend to the

*see Prez continued on page 8*

## UPCOMING

- Nov. 4 Directors' Meeting at  
NU3Y & N3KQH  
N.E. Phila.
- Nov. 5 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute

## General Meetings

**November 11**— program will be about  
Microwaves presented  
by Chris, N3IEI. Also  
scheduled will be nomina-  
tions of officers and  
directors. It's also Bring a  
Friend Night

**December** — Elections

**January** — 3rd Annual Club Auction

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP

Phone: 610-323-1050

Packet: aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

E-mail: aa3ep@aol.com

Russ Stafford, W3CH

Phone: (610)631-3401 ext. 902

Packet: w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

E-mail: russ@hdj.com

The MS Thank -you Pizza Party  
will be held on March 10, 1999

The Chester County Challenge will be  
held on May 16, 1999

VE Test  
Locations

Confirm all information, in advance,  
with the contact person. Licensed appli-  
cants must bring the original, and one  
photocopy of their license. All applicants,  
including children, must two means of  
positive ID. Also bring the original, and a  
copy, of any Certificate of Successful  
Completion needed to prove current status.  
The ARRL VEC's 1998 test fee is \$6.35;  
there is no charge for a Novice test.

• **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads,  
ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-  
hours

• **BELLMAR, NJ**  
Diane Nafis  
609-227-6281

• **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886

• **LEVITTOWN, PA**  
David L. Heller, 215-946-1040

• **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur  
Exams.)  
Russ Stafford, W3CH  
610-631-3401 x902

**TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697

• **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383  
home

• **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494

• **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

Spencer continued from page 8

**W3BBB:** I think 2 meters, only because I take care of the repeater. I'm not a low band person. I check into our 75 meter net and if there is something really going on elsewhere I'll go in there and look at it, but I'm not a DX chaser. I did Teletype for a while, but I had too much else to do. I was instrumental in getting a lot of people on the air on converted commercial FM equipment. I would guess back about 1985 or 1990 something like that. They had a 6 Meter repeater on WCAU tower over in Roxborough and there was plenty of low band commercial gear available for conversion. I got half the guys in Delmont on 6 Meters. I gave them a push and helped them get going. I did a lot of 6 meter simplex and repeater work when I first started, but I guess FM and repeaters is now my main stay, because I enjoy building.

**N3TAL:** Can you think of any unique amateur experience you have had?

**W3BBB:** Certainly, it was the 1953 flooding up along the Delaware River. I spent 5 days, up there, with a lot of other people. You really felt like you were doing something. You'd come away from the river, find a road and drive back in and see how badly these people were being damaged. It was a mess, I'll tell you. It was worthwhile knowing you were helping them, when they had no communication

**N3TAL:** What do you see for the future of Amateur Radio?

**W3BBB:** Kinda bleak, frankly. Most of the younger people can communicate far more quickly and more to their interest by using the Internet. Quite honestly, I can't see why anybody would attempt to become a Ham if they can talk to almost whoever they want to on the internet.

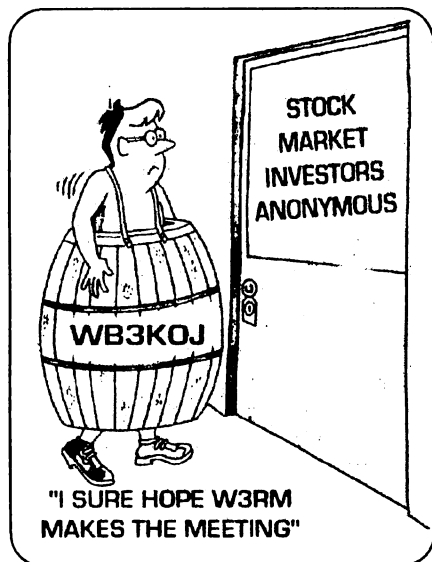
**N3TAL:** Any suggestions for getting the youth more interested in Amateur Radio?

**W3BBB:** You have to have programs they are interested in. You must have patience with them and give them a hand. Some of our members, myself included, should be kinder to these kids and not scare them away. □



## Field Day 1998

The ARRL has pushed reporting the results from Field Day back a month, but on page 21 of the November QST in the lower right corner is a Phil-Mont picture. Thanks and congratulations to Tom, WA3KLR for the photo and Ted, N3OWM for the subject. Ask Ted about his Hat. Go ahead, ask him. ☺



## Answers to picture on page 13

It would be nice to know their names:  
Five astronauts based at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) and two payload specialists take a break from their training schedule to pose for the STS-95 pre-flight portrait. Seated are astronauts Curtis L. Brown Jr. (right), mission commander, and Steven W. Lindsey, pilot. Standing, from the left, are Scott F. Parazynski (or in this case our own Jim Spencer) and Stephen K. Robinson, both mission specialists. Chiaki Mukai, payload specialist representing Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA); Pedro Duque, mission specialist representing the European Space Agency (ESA); and U.S. Sen John H. Glenn, Jr. payload specialist.

## GOODIES FOR SALE!

1-Kenwood HF transceiver TS-50 with YK-107C CW filter, like new -\$750.00

1- MFJ Antenna tuner, model - MFJ-949C - \$40.00

1- Hustler mobil antenna with base insulator and two resonators:20m and 15m - \$40.00

1- The "White Mountain-20", (April 97 QST) 20m SSB QRP transceiver, 10 Watts PEP. Assembled from a kit in a nice little enclosure. Microphone is in-cluded. Tuned and optimized using professional equipment.- \$80.00

Call Larry Toropin, AA3BI,  
home phone - 215-362-4153  
office phone - 610-630-2033.

## Minutes

## OCTOBER DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The October Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:04 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). The following Officers and Directors were in attendance: Russ (W3CH), Charlie (AA3EP), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Jim (W3BBB), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV) Gene (N3XKE), and Al (W3STW). The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported we received \$132.00 for the month and spent \$473.00, the majority of which was for insurance. Year to date we are running behind on receipts and running a little ahead on expenses. Net change in funds is \$500.00 less than last year. W3AA spent about \$60.00 for the month. Unless the W3AA fund receives some donations the fund will go negative next month. The treasury has a little over \$9000.00 on hand.

**REPEATER** - Jim (W3BBB) reported a new UHF antenna will be installed on the tower. **BUDGET** - Bob (K3KUD) reported a budget committee meeting will be held at his house early November. The exact date will be announced.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) reported all station volunteers need to have new badges by October 15. The old badges will not be accepted by the Institute after that date. Al (W3STW) reported the new volunteers at the station have been doing a great job and have been interacting well with the visitors. More volunteers are needed. Contact Al or Steve if you can help.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Al (W3STW) reported on the 501 (3C) tax status. After much research he has found we need to amend the bylaws to state we are educational. Dick (W3RM) took on the task of drafting a paragraph to be presented to the Board next month.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Al (W3STW) reported Barry (K3EUI) was interested in holding Novice and upgrade classes. After much discussion by the Board, it was agreed there were enough clubs in the area holding classes for us not to get involved. If Barry wanted to hold classes Westtown School was probably the best place and Russ (W3CH), said he would be available to help.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Welcome to Phil-Mont Denise Burstein (KB3ANO), Joe Hochreiter Jr. (WA3KTZ), and Guy Gibbs (WA3JZN).

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9:00 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). Thanks to Bill (W3AOK) for hosting this month's meeting. ☺



# THE W 3 A A

## REPORT

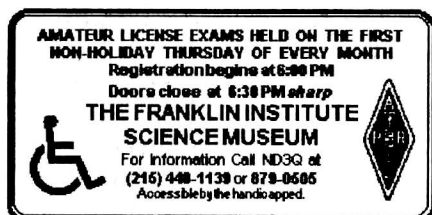
Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

**J**ust a year ago we reported that the Fourth floor was going to be closed in May for renovations. But, so far we are alive and well. It is still very important that the station be manned at all times. If you cannot, for whatever reason, make your time please contact the Volunteer Office at 448-1163 and let them know. There is a list of volunteers who have agreed to fill in, in emergencies, but you have to notify the Volunteer Office.

Next month I will be handing the column over to the NEW STATION MANAGER, W3STW. Al will write next month's column and I would like some of the other volunteers to try their hand.

With the addition of our new color printer on SSTV, we have been a hit with the visiting classes.

The CAMP-IN Schedule has been posted in the back room. The November dates are 11/6 and 11/13. If you are able to cover either of these dates please contact Jen Seva-Kutch at 448-2195 by the Wednesday before the date. This is to insure that they are aware someone is in the station and can put it on the handout. There are no more dates in 1998.



## 161<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS SEPTEMBER

12 candidates took 20 elements  
3 new amateurs plus 3 upgrade

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman  
Carol Hutkin, K2BL; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP;  
Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Wally, W3UK; Bob, W3YLT



Al Tribble, W3STW is now the manager of W3AA. Al can use all the help he can get. W3AA, contrary to some opinions is alive and well, but member support is still necessary. If you can spare a four (4) hour period any day of the week call and let Al or Steve, WU3I or Russ, W3CH know. You don't have to be a member of Phil-mont to be a volunteer at W3AA.

## METEOR STORM; BIGGEST IN 32 YEARS

A spectacular meteor storm will ignite the heavens next month, possibly 'sandblasting' satellites and threatening everyday services from cell phones to TV shows to data communications, according to Monday editions of the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER.

The 'Leonid' meteor shower is set to drench Earth on November 17 and 18 with up to 40 meteors per second, sometimes 50,000 per hour!

"NASA is taking [the shower] seriously," NASA spokesman Don Savage tells the paper. "We have been assessing what we need to do to ensure our satellites in Earth orbit are going to be operated in a safe manner during this meteor shower."

"This meteoroid storm will be the largest such threat ever experienced by our critical orbiting satellite constellations," William Ailor, director of the CENTER FOR ORBITAL REENTRY DEBRIS, told a House Science Committee in May.

Ailor: "Because of the very high speed of the particles - they will be moving at speeds of over... 155,000 mph - the storm poses an even greater and somewhat unknown threat... Fortunately, most of the particles... are very small, smaller than the diameter of a human hair, and won't survive passage through the Earth's atmosphere. Our satellites, however, are not protected by the atmosphere, so they will be 'sandblasted' by very small particles traveling more than 100 times faster than a bullet." □

[Drudge Report]

"Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them." Ann Landers

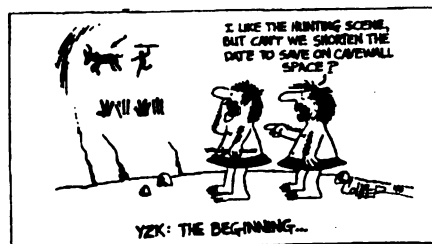
## MS 150 a Success Again

This year we had 4,000 plus riders. 123 radio operators and made 1.3 million dollars for the cure. We had 18 riders taken to the Hosp. (one med-a-vac). Just think how bad it would have been for the riders if the Hams would not have been there to call for help!

All in all we did well with folks from PMRC as well as hams from Penn Wireless, Warminster ARC, Mont-Co RACES, Marple-Newtown, DCARC, The Over the Hill Gang, Camden co ARES, Burlington Co RACES, SPARC, OMIK, DLARC, and many more clubs. I would also like to thank W2HOB For the use of 147.345 and the Metro-Comm repeater group for the use of 147.315, 224.96, 224.98, 223.96 and 443.05 as well as their 151.955 event radios.

It all worked very well. I hope every one will be able to make the March Pizza party given by MS as a thank -you to all the hams who helped out. There will be more coming in the Blurb. □

73 de Charlie, AA3EP



## Minutes

### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The 580th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened at 7:46 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the minutes. The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported through the end of September we received \$4300.00 and spent \$2600.00 leaving an excess in receipts over expenditures. Bottom line is we have money in the bank.

**FIELD DAY** - Steve (WU3I) reported we are waiting for next month's QST for the results from this year. Also, he is still looking for a camper to house the cooking for Field Day.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Len (W3LEN) reported we had 3 new members voted in at the Directors' Meeting. Welcome to Denise (KB3ANO), Joe (WA3KTZ) and Guy (WA3JZN).

**REPEATER** - Rick (N3DHI) reported a new antenna has been installed for the link transmitter for future voting, with help from Steve (WU3I), Gene (N3XKE), Ed (KB3IV), and Herb (N3OLK).

**PUBLIC SERVICE** - Charlie (AA3EP) reported Brian's Run is the next event. It will be the 1st Sunday in December.

**SUNSHINE** - Steve (WU3I) reported Joe (NU3Y) is back in the hospital.

**W3AA** - Russ (W3CH) reported Al (W3STW) has been appointed station manager. Al (W3STW) reported that some changes have been implemented such as permanent hours posted that the station will be staffed. Also, color slow-scan pictures are being printed on the new printer and handed out to some of the school groups visiting the station. Steve (WU3I) reported, thanks to Tom (KF3I), the station now has a newer ATV and slow-scan camera.

**WELCOME** - Charlie (K3CJ) reported 23 members and 7 visitors in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Gene (N3XKE) reported club jackets are available, contact Ed (KB3IV).

**NEW BUSINESS** - The Marple-Newtown Club is having an auction on November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

**SKYWARN** - Art (N3LCV) reported there have been several meetings and classes with plenty of new people signed up. Some have volunteered to act as net control on our repeater for Skywarn.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed by Russ (W3CH) and turned over to Keith (WU2Z) and his program on ARPS. Hope to see you all at the next General Meeting. □

*Prez continued from page 3*

meeting with you.

Just a reminder! There is always something happening in Phil-Mont. We are not just a repeater on 147.03.

Well that's it for this month, I do hope to see you all at the meeting.  $\alpha$

## Amateur in the Spotlight

Jim Spencer was one of the founders of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. Jim has participated in every phase of the club. He was one of the two major people who designed and built W3AA. Currently, he is responsible for the operation of the Repeater and is a Director. This interview was conducted in October of this year.

**N3TAL:** How long have you been in amateur radio?

**W3BBB:** I received my first ticket in 1950. My first call sign was W3QQH.

**N3TAL:** When did you change to W3BBB?

**W3BBB:** I would have to go back and look, but about 7 or 8 years ago. At one time you could have any number of calls you wanted. So, I had one for my place of business and by the luck of the draw got W3BBB. Then the FCC said make up your mind and pick one call. I kept "BBB" because it is much easier for those Hams on the way to Florida to remember "Bigger, Better, Babies" than "Quack, Quack, Honk".

**N3TAL:** You were one of the founders of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. Was mobile radio something brand new?

**W3BBB:** At that time mobile was new and was almost exclusively on 10 meters for lack of equipment.

**N3TAL:** What other hobbies do you have besides amateur radio?

**W3BBB:** Golf, I guess.

**N3TAL:** I have seen a lot of cartoons over the years in the Blurb about your golf.

**W3BBB:** Amen. That's the way my golf is — cartoonable.

**N3TAL:** What got you interested in Amateur Radio?

**W3BBB:** Anything that was electrical, not necessarily electronics. When I went into the service in 1942 I asked for telephone work and became a telephone repairman. Next door to the telephone repair section was a radio repair section so, naturally I got involved with some of that.

**N3TAL:** What mode do you favor the most?

*see Spencer continued on page 17*

## DX Report

*Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y*

### 3A - MONACO

11YRL will be signing as 3A/11YRL on all bands during his visit there in October and November. QLV via his home CBA.

### 3D - SWAZILAND

Jon, 3DA0CA is now active daily on 1830 kHz +/- . His assignment in Swaziland runs until July 1999. QSL via W4DR.

### 9N - NEPAL

G4ERW is active now as 9N7RW from Patan in the Kathmandu valley, and will be there until Nov. 7th. QSL to his home QTH. Nepal may become less rare with the following new licenses having been recently issued to locals: 9N1AB, 9N1AC, 9N1AD, and 9N1AE.

### BV9P - PRATAS

A ten member team from BV has now completed their preparation for a major DXpedition to Pratas. All equipment and necessary gear is ready for the trip. The group awaits permission to depart which may be forthcoming as early as this month. Just wait 'til you hear the pileups for this one! Can't wait!

mail to: nu3y@critpath.org  $\alpha$



Picture credit N3XKE

**Here they are:**  
Official STS-95 Crew Portrait. Can you name all the crew. See page 16 for the answers





## Membership Applications

**Call:** N3DLV

**Name:** Edmond Losco

**Nickname:** Ed

**Class:** Tech Plus

**Address:** 4640 Horrocks St. Phila., Pa 19124-3117

**Occupation:** Retired

**Home phone:** 215743-7074

**Business phone:**

**E-mail:**

**Packet:**

**Committees:**

**Call:** N2VIZ

**Name:** Frederick C. Sutherland

**Nickname:** Fred

**Class:** Technician

**Address:** 417 N. Church St. Moorestown, N.J. 08057-1742

**Occupation:** Toll Plaza Supervisor B.R.B.

**Home phone:** 609-802-0862

**Business phone:**

**E-mail:** n2viz@juno.com

**Packet:**

**Committees:** Emer. Coord. and Skywarn

## Help Wanted

Carol, N3PVO, our Secretary is retiring at the end of this year. She has done an outstanding job. The club is looking for a replacement. You will be responsible for minutes of all meetings and correspondence. You must be able to type, even if it is with one finger. Having e-mail would be nice, but you can always snail mail your reports to the editor. You must be able to attend all Director's meetings and General Meetings. This is a very important position, and very rewarding. Contact Russ, W3CH or any Board member to apply. Oh, by the way, the new Secretary will be getting a pay raise.

## The Commodore 64 Lives

The Commodore 64 (at least its name) is making a comeback! Another internet machine was introduced recently at the Hanover (Germany) computer trade show. A start-up firm in the Dutch Antilles is calling it the "Commodore 64 WCP" (for Web Computer International). Cost will be around \$400.00. And like the original Commodore 64, it uses a TV as a monitor. It has 16MB of RAM, a floppy drive, and a 56Kbps modem. Operating system is Windows 3.1, browser: Netscape Navigator. And, yes! It also runs C64 Software. [B.R.A.T.S. newsletter (The Milliwatt)]

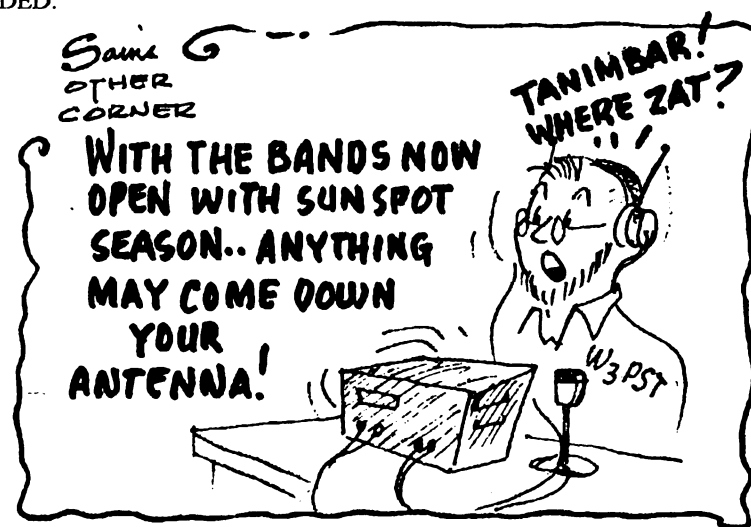
## NOTICE — NOTICE — NOTICE

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT October 17, 1998 To all radio amateurs

VOLUNTARY COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY DECLARED.

ALL AMATEURS ARE REQUESTED TO COOPERATE BY RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF A VOLUNTARY COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY AND THEREFORE RELINQUISHING THE USE OF FREQUENCIES 7285 KHZ (EMERGENCIES) AND 7290 KHZ (HEALTH AND WELFARE) DURING THE DAY AND 3873 KHZ (EMERGENCIES) AND 3935 KHZ (HEALTH AND WELFARE) DURING THE EVENING HOURS. THE FREQUENCIES ARE TO BE CLEARED WITHIN 3 KHZ EITHER SIDE OF EACH FREQUENCY.

THE COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL RECINDED.



## Blurb STAFF

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1998

NOVEMBER

1998

| SUNDAY                                                           | MONDAY    | TUESDAY                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                              | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                        | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><br>2M NCS N3OWM<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3BBB   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>WA3NSP  | <b>4</b><br><br>DIRECTOR'S<br>MEETING at<br>NU3Y & N3KQH<br>N.E. Phila.<br>Full Moon ☉                                                 | <b>5</b><br><br>162 st LICENSE EXAM<br>Session at<br>The Franklin Institute<br>Registration begins at 6:00<br>Door close as 6:30 p.m.<br>sharp! | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>8</b><br><br>2M NCS W3STW<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3PWG   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>W3AOK  | <b>11</b> VETERAN'S DAY<br><br>GENERAL MEETING<br>at<br>The Franklin Institute<br>Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.<br>Meeting starts at 7:30. | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br><br>Dow Jones closed<br>above 1,000 mark first<br>time in 76 years, 1972<br><br><i>Blurb DEADLINE!</i> |
| <b>15</b><br><br>2M NCS WB3KOJ<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3STW | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>W3RM   | <b>18</b><br><br>New Moon ●                                                                                                            | <b>19</b><br><br>Lincoln delivered his<br>short speech at<br>Gettysburg, Pa 1863                                                                | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                                                                                           |
| <b>22</b><br><br>2M NCS W3BBB<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS N3JDM  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>WA3NSP | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>26</b><br><br>THANKSGIVING!                                                                                                                  | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br><br>"I don't make jokes —<br>I just watch the<br>government and report<br>the facts." - Will<br>Rogers |
| <b>29</b><br><br>2M NCS KB3IV<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS KB3IV  | <b>30</b> |                                                         |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                 |           |                                |